

Application Serial No. 10/777,267
Reply to Office Action dated March 7, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of performing a washing operation in a dishwasher comprising the steps of:

filling a washing chamber defined by a tub of a dishwasher with a washing fluid to a first level;

initiating operation of a pump assembly to direct the washing fluid from within the washing chamber to at least one spray arm while causing the washing fluid to fall to a second level in the washing chamber;

spraying jets of washing fluid from the at least one spray arm onto kitchenware being washed in the dishwasher;

causing the washing fluid to rise to the first level to dislodge food and soil particles clinging to internal surfaces of the washing chamber; and

varying trajectories of the jets of washing fluid in order to create a random spray pattern directed onto the internal surfaces of the dishwasher.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of initiating, causing and varying are repeated at least one time during the washing operation.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein causing the washing fluid to rise to the first level is constituted by pausing operation of the pump assembly for a predetermined period.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein varying the trajectories of the jets of washing fluid is constituted by re-initiating operation of the pump assembly after pausing the pump assembly.

Application Serial No. 10/777,267
Reply to Office Action dated March 7, 2005

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein re-initiating operation of the pump assembly includes gradually increasing a pressure of the washing fluid being directed to the at least one spray arm in order to direct the washing fluid onto the internal surfaces.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the internal surfaces sprayed by the washing fluid include a front lip of the tub.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the internal surfaces sprayed by the washing fluid further include lower corner portions of the tub.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the washing operation includes main wash and final rinse cycles, wherein the steps of initiating, causing and varying occur during the main wash cycle.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the steps of initiating, causing and varying also occur during the final rinse cycle.

10. (currently amended) A method of performing a washing operation in a dishwasher comprising the steps of:

filling a washing chamber defined by a tub of a dishwasher with a washing fluid to a first level;

initiating operation of a pump assembly to direct the washing fluid from within the washing chamber to at least one spray arm while causing the washing fluid to fall to a second level in the washing chamber;

spraying jets of washing fluid from the at least one spray arm onto kitchenware being washed in the dishwasher;

pausing the pump assembly such that the washing fluid rises back to the first level to dislodge food and soil particles clinging to internal surfaces of the washing chamber;
and

Application Serial No. 10/777,267
Reply to Office Action dated March 7, 2005

re-initiating operation of the pump assembly with a gradually increasing pressure of the washing fluid in order to create a varying trajectory spray pattern from the at least one spray arm that is directed onto the internal surfaces of the dishwasher.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the steps of initiating, pausing and re-initiating are repeated at least one time during the washing operation.

12. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the internal surfaces sprayed by the washing fluid include a front lip of the tub.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the internal surfaces sprayed by the washing fluid further include lower corner portions of the tub.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the washing operation includes main wash and final rinse cycles, wherein the steps of initiating, pausing and re-initiating occur during the main wash cycle.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the steps of initiating, pausing and re-initiating also occur during the final rinse cycle.

16. (original) A dishwasher comprising:

a tub having bottom, opposing side, rear and top walls which collectively define a washing chamber adapted to receive and cleanse soiled kitchenware;

a door pivotally mounted to the tub for selectively sealing the washing chamber during a washing operation;

means for filling the washing chamber with washing fluid to a first level;

a wash system including a pump assembly and a spray arm, wherein activation of the wash system causes the washing fluid to fall to a second, lower level in the washing chamber while jets of washing fluid emanate from the spray arm;

means for refilling the washing chamber with the washing fluid to the first level;

and

Application Serial No. 10/777,267
Reply to Office Action dated March 7, 2005

means for varying trajectories of the jets of washing fluid, said varying means establishing a random washing fluid spray pattern in the washing chamber in order to dislodge food and soil particles adhering to internal surfaces in the washing chamber.

17. (original) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the first level is substantially at a bottom edge portion of the door.

18. (original) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the refilling means pauses operation of the pump assembly, thereby allowing washing fluid suspended in the wash system to settle into the wash chamber.

19. (original) The dishwasher according to claim 18, wherein the varying means gradually increases a pressure of the washing fluid directed to the spray arm.

20. (original) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the internal surfaces are defined by wall portions of the tub which are not directly contacted by the jets of washing fluid from the at least one spray arm when the washing fluid is below the first level.